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a free association series, on the one hand, and promptness in applying another set of stimulus words to personal or egocentric matters. This correlation seems not to exist between emotional adjectives as a special class and promptness in making personal reference; nor between the number of perseverations and the speed of personal reference. There is a noticeable correlation between the tendency to give proper names and pronouns as reaction words in a free association series, and the tendency to make a personal application of another set of stimulus words when directed to do so.

XXXVIII. AN ATTEMPT TO TEST MOODS OR TEMPERAMENTS OF CHEERFULNESS AND DEPRESSION BY DIRECTED RECALL OF EMOTIONALLY TONED EXPERIENCES

By ELEANOR MORGAN, HELEN K. MULL, and M. F. WASHBURN

In this test five lists of fifty stimulus words each were used. The experiment was performed on five successive days with each observer, a different list of words being used on each day. The instructions were always the following: "When I pronounce a word to you, observe what idea that word first calls to your mind, and report whether it is a pleasant or unpleasant idea. If it seems neither pleasant nor unpleasant, but indifferent, continue thinking until either a pleasant or unpleasant idea is suggested, and report which it is." The observer's eyes were always closed to prevent suggestions from the surroundings.

The idea on which the test was based was that, according to the law which James called that of emotional congruity, a person in a state of exaltation would think of more pleasant ideas in connection with a stimulus word than would a person in a state of depression. If a person on five successive days maintains a high level of, say, pleasant associations, it may be plausibly suggested that such a person is either steadily cheerful in temperament, or is passing through a somewhat prolonged mood of cheerfulness. The first requisite is evidently the establishment of a norm showing the number of pleasant and unpleasant suggestions that a given stimulus word may be expected to produce.

These norms were found in the following way. The number of cases where a pleasant idea was the first one suggested by the stimulus word was counted for each observer and each series of fifty words; the average number of pleasant suggestions for the total group of ninety-seven young women observers was then found for each of the five series of fifty words. Thus for Series I, the ninety-seven observers furnished on an average 33.7 cases out of the fifty, where a pleasant idea was the first one suggested; Series II an average of 34.8 cases; Series III an average of 34.4 cases; Series IV an average of 36.1 cases; and Series V an average of 35.9 cases. The stimulus words which formed the series were originally chosen at random; they comprised both nouns and adjectives, and no especial care was taken to select those with or without pleasant or unpleasant suggestions. The averages just given show that the proportion of pleasant to unpleasant words in each series was very nearly the same, and that in all the series there were more pleasant than unpleasant words. It seems to be a psychological fact that a normal person recalls pleasant experi-

ences more readily than unpleasant ones; this law may have operated not only in the minds of the observers, making them think of more pleasant than unpleasant ideas in connection with the stimulus words, but also in the mind of the author of the method, whose intention was to choose the words at random. Among the observers, out of four hundred and eighty-five cases, five series for each of ninety-seven persons, only nine experienced more unpleasant than pleasant suggestions.

The optimism, temporary or permanent, of a given observer was now measured in the following way. The difference between the number of pleasant suggestions she obtained from a given series and the average number obtained for that series, whether the difference was positive or negative, was found; and this was done for each of the five series in the case of the observer under consideration. The algebraic sum of these differences, if it was large enough, might be considered as suggestive of optimism or pessimism on the observer's part. Thus a person the sum of whose differences from the average amounted to plus 53 might be regarded as optimistic; one for whom the corresponding value was minus 40 might be classed as pessimistic.

Whether the method really tested temperament, however, depended on whether its results could be found to correlate with some other measure of optimistic or pessimistic tendencies. No other method suggested itself except the estimates of personal friends of the observers. Accordingly, for each of eighty-nine observers judgments were obtained from three intimate associates, the two questions put being, "Is A.B. inclined to be optimistic and cheerful, or pessimistic and depressed most of the time? Is she steady or fluctuating in mood?" Needless to say the judges in each case gave their estimates without consultation together.

The results may be expressed in the following way. There were twenty-one observers who in all five series gave a number of pleasant associations which was above the average. We may call them, on the hypothesis that this test indicates optimism, the steadily optimistic observers. Of these, eleven were reported by all three judges who were consulted in their respective cases, as steadily optimistic in temperament. Three of the group were reported by all three of their judges as variable in temperament but inclining to optimism. Two were judged steadily optimistic by two of their judges and indifferent, neither optimistic nor pessimistic, by the third judge. One was described as steadily optimistic by two judges and as variable tending to optimism by the third. One was reported by all three judges as fluctuating in temperament, and one as steadily neutral or balanced. One was reported by two judges as variable tending to pessimism and by one as neutral.

There were fifteen observers who in all five series gave a number of pleasant associations which was below the average, and who therefore may be tentatively called the steadily pessimistic group. Of these one only was reported by all three judges as steadily optimistic; one was reported steadily optimistic by two judges and variable to optimistic by the third. Three were reported as steadily optimistic by one judge and as variable to optimistic by two. One was described as steadily neutral or indifferent. One was reported steadily pessimistic by one judge, indifferent by the other two. Three were described as steadily pessimistic by two judges and as steadily optimistic by the third. Three were reported steadily pessimistic by two judges and

indifferent by the third, and one was reported steadily pessimistic by three judges.

An examination of these figures strongly suggests the existence of a real positive correlation between exceeding or falling below the average number of pleasant associations in five successive days, and the judgments of a person's intimate associates regarding his temperament. It should be noted that not only were more of our observers "steady optimists" than "steady pessimists," but their judges were still more unwilling to call them pessimistic. Only one of the eighty-nine observers who were judged by three friends each was reported as steadily pessimistic in temperament, although fifteen showed a steady deficit of pleasant associations on five successive days.

The method needs and is to receive further investigation: in particular, we plan to secure greater accuracy and uniformity in the conditions under which the estimating judges work.

XXXIX. THE HEALY-FERNALD PICTURE COMPLETION TEST AS A TEST OF THE PERCEPTION OF THE COMIC

BY MIRIAM A. WALKER AND M. F. WASHBURN

While examining the Healy-Fernald Picture Completion Test its possibilities as an apparatus for investigating the perception of the comic occurred to the senior author of this study. The picture, it will be remembered, represents a variety of independent occurrences, and in the representation of each some essential object is missing. A number of blocks are supplied which can be fitted into the empty spaces where the missing objects have been; some of these blocks bear the missing pictures, others have pictures of irrelevant objects. When the puzzle is used as originally intended, the problem for the child tested is to find and put in place the proper object for each episodic picture. Thus in the blank space between the boys whose attitudes show that they are playing football the square block bearing the picture of a football must be fitted; the space in front of the child who is holding a saucer of milk must be filled with the picture of the approaching cat; below the boy dropping an apple out of a tree must go the picture of the basket of apples; opposite the fighting rooster must go the other fighting rooster; the obviously terrified boy must have the savage dog supplied, and so on. There are ten such episodes. The drawings themselves are comic; the exaggerated expressions make the effect amusing even when the missing pieces are correctly supplied.

But in some of the episodes at least the effect is much funnier if a wrong object is substituted; and this suggested the use of the puzzle as a test of the comic. If instead of the football there is put the picture of a crying baby, which thus appears to be tossed to and fro; if instead of the apple basket a comfortably sleeping cat appears about to be hit by the falling apple; if a pile of school books is supplied in place of the dog from which the small boy flees in horror; a new joy is given to contemplation of the varied scene.

Now all authorities agree that a situation to be comic must involve an element of incongruity. We may however perhaps distinguish as belonging to different intellectual levels the comic that is based on mere incongruity, such as we find in nonsense rhymes, and that where